

**To:** Clean Air Rule Committee, Dept. of Ecology

**From:** Sheryl Wilhelm

**Subject:** Comments on Threshold for Inclusion of Facilities in Clean Air Rule

**Date:** 14 October 2015

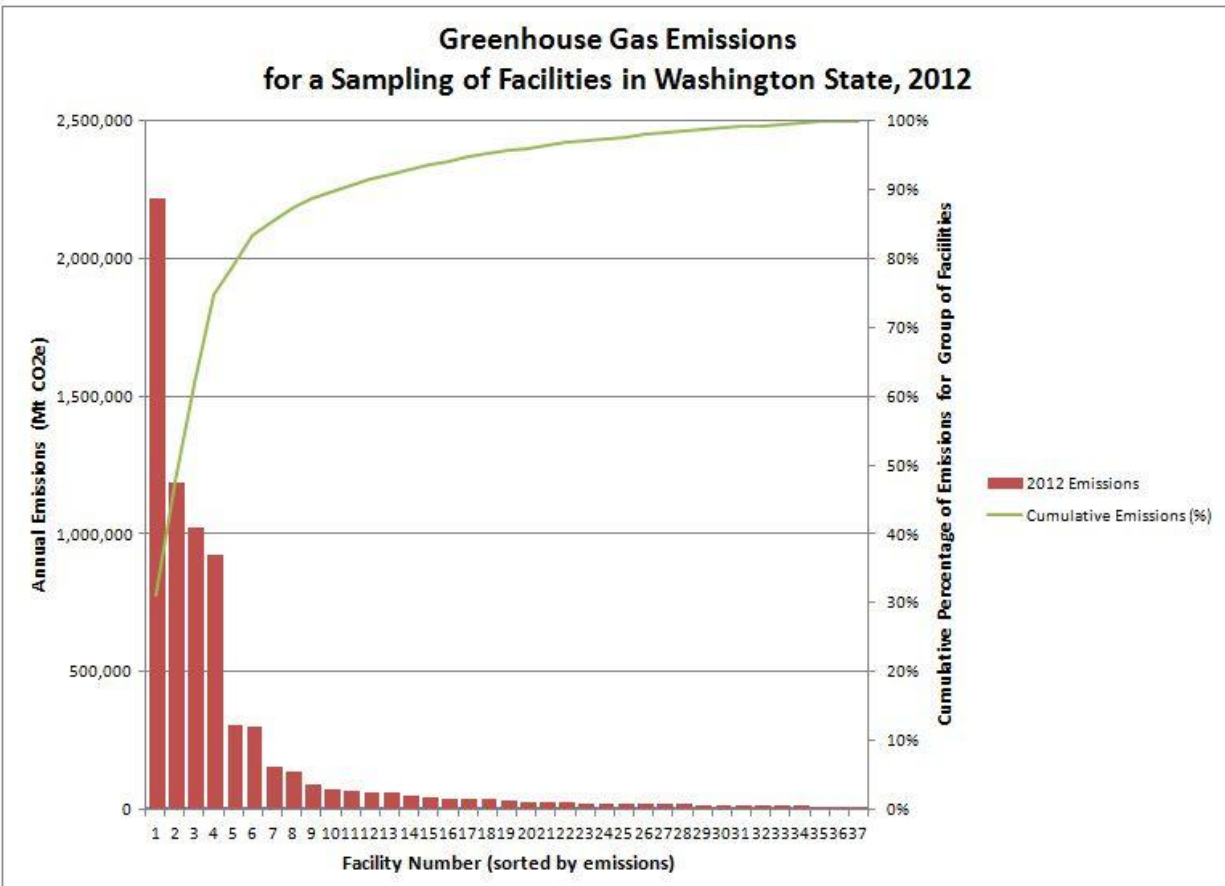
I attended the "sounding board session" on the Clean Air Rules in Seattle on October 8th as a member of the League of Women Voters Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee. I would like to make three comments about the proposed rule. My comments regard the threshold set for inclusion of facilities in the program.

First I suggest that the threshold for inclusion of facilities in the regulations should be lowered over time. In fact the threshold will have to be lowered as the allowable emissions are lowered, in order to prevent covered facilities from having to reduce their emissions to levels lower than those of facilities originally not covered by the regulations. This is relevant for facilities whose emissions are near the original threshold of 100,000 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e. For instance a facility with initial emissions of 105,000 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e may be required to lower emissions by 10% by 2020, or to 94,500 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e. This facility will then be emitting less than a facility whose initial emissions fell slightly below the 100,000 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e threshold.

Second there was no discussion concerning under which circumstances a facility might be removed from the program. Is there some circumstance beyond closure of the facility that would result in a removal? Would closure of a facility give its owners "credits" that might be sold?

Finally in communications with the public I think it would be very helpful to put the proposed 100,000 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e into context by including:

- The magnitude of the total estimated emissions for the state (92 MMt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2011, according to the report Washington State Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory 2010 – 2011).
- The distribution of GHG emissions sorted by magnitude and the total cumulative emissions covered by the proposed rule. I pulled the first three pages of emissions from the 2012 and 2013 report for an example:



These data help to illustrate why the selection of a threshold has so little impact on the percentage of emissions covered by this rule, since emissions of 100,000 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e are roughly 0.1% of total state emissions.

I would be happy to clarify my suggestions further if that would be helpful. I wish you all the best as you work to construct this very important rule.

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